



James B. Wright
Senior Attorney

REGULATORY AUTH.

01 DEC 28 PM 4 13

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

December 28, 2001

14111 Capital Boulevard
Wake Forest, NC 27587-5900
Mailstop NCWKFR0313
Voice 919 554 7587
Fax 919 554 7913
james.b.wright@mail.sprint.com

Mr. David Waddell, Executive Secretary
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Re: *Docket No. 97-00409: All Telephone Companies Tariff Filings
Regarding Reclassification of Pay Telephone Service.*
UTSE Discovery Statement and Comment regarding Hearing

Dear Mr. Waddell:

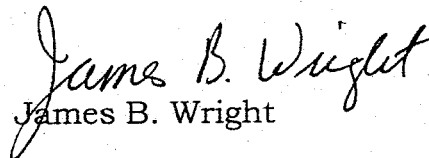
Pursuant to the December 13, 2001 Notice of Filing issued in this case, United Telephone-Southeast, Inc. states that there are remaining discovery issues. The Tennessee Payphone Owners Association's ("TPOA") July 6, 2001 responses to United's First Set of Discovery in effect stated that the TPOA either had not completed its analysis at the time the answers were prepared and would provide responses at a later time or stated "none, at this time" (see TPOA answers to United's interrogatories 2, 4, 5, 6 and all TPOA answers to United's request for production of documents). The TPOA has not provided any additional responses since its July 6 filing. United urges the TPOA to provide responses to United's First Set of Discovery as soon as possible. The TPOA has yet to put forth its position as to what are the costs for United in this docket. United would note that it has filed five cost studies in this docket, one in 1997, one in March 2001, one in May 2001 and two in October 2001. The TPOA has had an opportunity covering many months to conduct an in-depth review of United's position and seek discovery for any areas it wished more information or clarification. United asks that it be provided an opportunity to likewise be permitted to use discovery to seek an explanation or clarification of the TPOA's position.

Mr. David Waddell
December 28, 2001
Page 2

The Notice of Filing also asked the parties to comment on the need for an evidentiary hearing. United has tried through discovery to obtain information as to the TPOA's position or any facts on which it may basis its opinion, but as noted above, nothing has yet been provided. Although this proceeding has been ongoing since 1997, it is possible that United will not be apprised by the TPOA of its position until testimony is prefiled at a later date. Since United may not have any chance to use discovery to obtain an explanation of whatever may be filed, United believes that of necessity it must ask for an evidentiary hearing. An evidentiary hearing may be the first and only opportunity for United to inquire into the TPOA's position.

Please contact me or Laura Sykora at 919-554-7323 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


James B. Wright

cc: Parties of Record
Laura Sykora
Kaye Odum
Whitney Malone

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE; DOCKET 97-00409
(Pay Telephone Service Reclassification)

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing letter was served upon the following parties of record by fax or by depositing a copy thereof in the U.S mail addressed as follows:

Henry Walker
Boult, Cummings
414 Union Street, Suite 1600
Nashville, TN 37219

Ted G. Pappas
Bass, Berry & Simms
2700 First American Center
Nashville, TN 37238

Consumer Advocate and
Protection Division
425 Fifth Avenue North, 2nd Fl.
Nashville, TN 37243

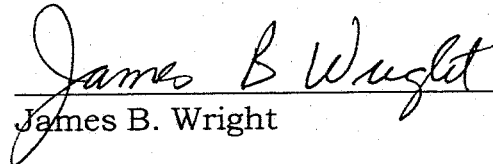
Guilford R. Thornton, Jr. Esq.
Stokes & Bartholomew
424 Church St, Suite 2800
Nashville, TN 37219-2386

Guy M. Hicks
BellSouth Telecommunications
333 Commerce St., Suite 2101
Nashville, TN 37201-3300

James P. Lamoureux
AT&T Communications
1200 Peachtree Street, Suite 8100
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Jon E. Hastings
Boult, Cummings, Conner & Berry
414 Union Street, Suite 1600
Nashville, TN 37219-1777

December 28, 2001


James B. Wright